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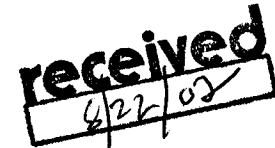
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OF COUNSEL
WILLIAM G. CONLY

August 20, 2002



Honorable James H. Welsh
Commissioner of Conservation
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 44275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A, ASHLAND FIELD,
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

FOSSIL OPERATING, INC. ("Applicant"), hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of an Order pertaining to the following matters relating to the Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A, in the Ashland Field, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana:

1. To establish rules and regulations governing the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A.
2. To create one (1) drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A, such unit being designated ROD RA SUA, and being shown on the attached plat.
3. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the proposed unit with each separate tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.
4. To designate a unit operator of, and unit well for, the proposed unit, as may be appropriate.
5. To provide that future wells drilled to the Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A, within or outside of the proposed unit be located in accordance with the provisions of Statewide Order No. 29-E.
6. To define the Rodessa Formation, Reservoir A, as that interval encountered between the depths of 5,350 feet and 5,887 feet (measured depths) in the Franks Petroleum, Inc. et al.--Almond Brothers No. 1 Well, located in the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) of Section 17, Township 13 North, Range 7 West, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.
7. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

Honorable James H. Welsh
August 20, 2002
Page 2

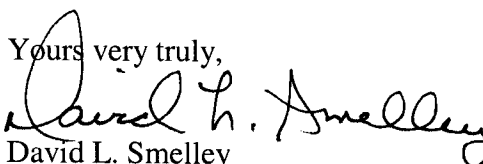
Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-7216. Any person wishing to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such data which is not otherwise available from the Office of Conservation can be obtained from Applicant at the expense of the requesting party.

By letter dated August 9, 2002, Applicant gave notice, in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure, of its intention to apply for a public hearing concerning these proposals and a pre-application conference with respect to Applicant's proposals was tentatively scheduled for September 4, 2002. No request for the pre-application conference was received; therefore, no conference was held.

Attached hereto is a plat outlining Applicant's proposed unit, which plat is identical to the plat attached to the pre-application notice except for correction of the location of the definition well described above. Also attached hereto is a list of the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom a copy of this application is being sent. Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, such list is being forwarded only to the Commissioner of Conservation and to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation. A copy of the list will be furnished by the undersigned to any party so requesting. A reasonable effort was made to obtain a complete list of Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing and the enclosed plat at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of Ashland Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, a copy of the Legal Notice will be mailed to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, we enclose our check payable to the Commissioner of Conservation for the application fee.

Yours very truly,

David L. Smelley
-- Attorney for Fossil Operating, Inc.

DLS:dp
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encls.)
Mr. Michael Brooks (w/encls.)
Mr. Richard Sepulvado (w/encls.)
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encls.)
Interested Owners, Represented
Parties and Interested Parties
(w/copy of unit plat only)

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13N-8W

13N-7W

ASH
LOUIS GILBERT & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ROD RA SU A
•1.640 ACRES

Spring Chorus

R.D. Hastings

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EXHIBIT NO.

DOCKET NO. 02-

FOSSIL OPERATING, INC.

ASHLAND FIELD
NATCHITOCHEE PARISH, LOUISIANA

PROPOSED UNIT PLAT

RODESSA FORMATION, RESERVOIR A

PROPOSED UNIT

**WELLS 4000' OR SHALLOWER
REMOVED FROM BASE**

LEGEND

PROPOSED UNIT PLAT